

year-old Anne T. Smedinghoff, who grew up in River Forest, Illinois, in the Seventh Congressional District where her family still lives, became the first U.S. State Department officer to die in Afghanistan since the 1970s. She had less than 4 months left to serve in Afghanistan.

Secretary of State Kerry said in Istanbul, where he is on a diplomatic trip:

A brave American was determined to brighten the light of learning through books written in the native tongue of the students that she had never met, but whom she felt compelled to help, and she was met by cowardly terrorists determined to bring darkness and death to total strangers.

Anne was killed while delivering donated textbooks to children at a new school. For Anne, who could have remained relatively safe in the embassy, delivering these books was essential to her mission, just as appearing on one of the most watched Afghan television shows to explain to the Afghan people the similarities between Eid, a Muslim holiday that celebrates giving and sharing, and Thanksgiving. Both give thanks for life's blessings, and Anne Smedinghoff discussed how she and her family celebrated back at home.

Anne recently worked on a campaign to end gender violence by producing and distributing videos to the press across the country and was rewarded when she and her colleagues saw photographs of Afghan men in markets wearing purple ribbons, a symbol of the campaign.

Her parents, Tom and Mary Beth Smedinghoff, said the foreign service was a calling, and Afghanistan was her second deployment, an assignment for which she had volunteered after a tour in Caracas, Venezuela. She died her parents said, doing a job she thought must be done. They said:

She particularly enjoyed the opportunity to work directly with the Afghan people, and was always looking for opportunities to reach out and help make a difference in the lives of those living in a country ravaged by war. We are consoled knowing that she was doing what she loved and that she was serving her country by helping to make a positive difference in the world.

Before she joined the State Department, Anne served on the board of directors for the Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults' 4K for Cancer program, spending a summer cycling across the United States to raise money and awareness. She was full of life and hope. She rode her bicycle from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea. She was once photographed with a boa constrictor around her neck in South America.

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The residents of the Seventh Congressional District join me in honoring her life and work. Her bravery, her focus on using public diplomacy for positive change, her vision of the human potential, wherever it might be, sets a standard that it behooves all of us to try and emulate.

Today a flag is being flown across the United States Capitol in her honor in

recognition of her service to our country. My thoughts and prayers are with her parents, brothers, sisters, and friends during these difficult days. She is indeed a hero.

WHO WILL SPEAK FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED WOMEN?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. I'm wondering who will speak for underprivileged women, not only in the United States, but very particularly in Philadelphia.

I'm here today to talk about an uncomfortable subject which no one seems to want to talk about. It is the Gosnell trial in Philadelphia. The media doesn't want to talk about it—not NBC, CBS, ABC, CNBC, not Fox, and not the leaders of our Nation, not the President. It is uncomfortable, and I'd ask you to bear with me while I read to you some of the testimony that comes from this trial because I feel we must.

This man is charged with killing seven babies and murdering one woman. The prosecutors believe Mr. Gosnell killed hundreds of infants and destroyed the related records so we will never know. Mr. Gosnell "induced labor, forced the live birth of viable babies in the sixth, seventh, eighth month of pregnancy and then killed those babies by cutting into the back of the neck with scissors and severing their spinal cord." He called it "snipping." Sherry West, one of his clinic employees, testified on Monday that one newborn at the clinic was 18 to 24 inches long when it was killed:

There were scores more. At least one other mother died following an abortion in which Gosnell punctured her uterus and then sent her home. He left an arm and a leg of a partially aborted fetus in the womb of another woman, and then told her he did not need to see her when she became sick days later, having developed a temperature of 106 degrees. He perforated bowels, cervixes, and uteruses. He left women sterile.

The clinic reeked of animal urine. Furniture and blankets were stained with blood, and instruments were not properly sterilized, according to the grand jury report.

These women are the most vulnerable women in our society, and they were, indeed, most likely at their darkest hour. They went to this clinic to seek help, and they did not know that this man was not qualified nor was his staff qualified to perform any of the procedures that they performed:

There were bags and bottles holding aborted fetuses scattered throughout the building. There were jars lining shelves with severed feet that he kept for no medical purpose.

These women came because they were probably the product of violent home lives, where they felt they had no options. They came to this care provider, who was essentially unregulated. This does fall into the purview of the

United States Attorney General because these patients oftentimes traveled across State lines.

This is an isolated incident. It would be disingenuous to think that all caregivers fall into this category because we know that they do not. But we also know that if there is one, there may likely be others, and that is, indeed, sad.

Prosecutors say that none of Gosnell's staff were licensed nurses or doctors and that a 15-year-old student performed anesthesia with potentially lethal narcotics.

Abortions after the 24th week are illegal in Pennsylvania. However, Gosnell allegedly aborted and killed babies in the sixth and seventh month of pregnancy and charged more for bigger babies. He also took extra precautions with white women from the suburbs, according to a grand jury report. He allegedly ushered them into a slightly cleaner area because he thought they would be more likely to file a complaint.

The abortions of the biggest babies allegedly were scheduled for Sundays, when the clinic was closed. The only person allowed to assist with such cases was Gosnell's wife, Pearl Gosnell. She was one of nine employees charged with him as well in this, and she has not obtained a lawyer at this time. He allegedly took the files home with him from the patients that he dealt with and then disposed of them.

I would say this. It gives me great pain and sorrow to have this entered and read into the RECORD. But since the media outlets refuse to cover this because it's uncomfortable, because it might not meet with their agenda, and because many of the leaders of this country refuse to discuss it, I think it's important that we have it read into the RECORD so that this history and their stories don't remain untold—the stories of these women in their most desperate hours, and the stories of these little babies that will never know the privilege of being an American, that will never realize their dream.

I would make this charge today: Mr. President, your silence is deafening. Are you so blind, are you so intractable, are you so extreme that you yourself can't even call this out for what it is, something that is reprehensible? Pro-life or pro-choice, this is reprehensible. As a father, as I am, of two little girls, it is worthy of your attention, it is worthy of your leadership, it is worthy of your direction.

DON'T FILIBUSTER GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Today, the bodies of this Congress have an opportunity to save lives. In fact, they have an historic moment. They actually have the ability to act for once after a tragedy of the proportions of